

## THE VALLEY KICKS OFF THE HOLIDAYS

SEVERAL CITIES IN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY STARTED THEIR HOLIDAY SEASON CELEBRATIONS.

SEE PAGE 3



# VALLEY PREPARES FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS



**TAKING CONTROL** - Valley College students simulate a take down of a shooter Thursday in the classroom emergency training in Monarch Hall.

**Students and staff were given a workshop on what to do during emergencies on campus.**

**ROMEO GONZALEZ**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Emergencies can happen at a moment's notice, so Valley College's community was trained this past Thursday afternoon on emergency situations if a fire, earthquake or shooting were to occur on campus.

Vice President of Administrative Services Tom Jacobsmeyer and Emergency Services Department Chair Alan Cowen held the classroom emergency training workshop in Monarch Hall with more than 30 people in attendance.

"What we want to do today is to demonstrate some parts of the of the emergency response plan that specifically relate to what faculty do in the classroom," said Jacobsmeyer. "While [instructors] are the third level of the response team, it is actually the most important."

Jacobsmeyer and Cowen created a simulation of a classroom with the help of some student-athletes. The students and Cowen created a walkthrough showing instructors what to do if any of these events happened in a classroom.

At the beginning of each semester, instructors should speak to their classes and let them know

what they should do if a fire, earthquake or shooting were to occur on campus, according to Jacobsmeyer.

"This is an open campus. Scenarios like this can happen at anytime," said broadcasting instructor Jason Beaton. "I think this will give students a better awareness of their surroundings."

Cowen and the participating students' first walkthrough was a fire drill. Instructors and students were trained that professors should tell the class to get up, walk out of the building and head toward Lot A, the safest place on campus because it is clear of everything, according to Cowen.

During an earthquake, Cowen and the student-athlete team demonstrated the actions they might take if a quake were to occur. Teachers were taught they are to instruct students to go under a desk, stay until the shaking stops and then head to Lot A.

"It's not that hard. Evacuating is actually pretty simple," said Jacobsmeyer. "When you're in the classroom, you're going to be the leader. They're going to look to you to tell them what to do."

The active shooter scenario was the last to be demonstrated. Both students and instructors were first told that it is best to barricade the doors, making it difficult for a gunman to get inside a classroom.

If the shooter were to get inside a classroom, the next thing to do would be to rush him or her and tackle the gunperson as a

group, according to Jacobsmeyer.

"There is no perfect scenario, so there is no perfect day," said Los Angeles Sheriff Rick Baker. "You guys are way better off doing what you have been trained to do than not having any training at all."

For those who were not part of the emergency training workshop, a video of the event can be found on Valley's website at [www.lavc.edu](http://www.lavc.edu).

### ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

#### VALLEY PELL GRANT PROBLEM PARTIALLY SOLVED

Some students are awarded their Pell grants late in the semester.

#### VALLEY AWARDED GRANT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Upward Bound Program now has a new math and science program due to a recently received grant.



These features and more can be found in full @ [www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com)

## VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SEEKS CHANGE IN VENUE

**Tom Jacobsmeyer will be retiring in February.**

**COURTNEY BASSLER**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After nearly 12 years serving the Valley College community as vice president of administration, Tom Jacobsmeyer will retire Feb. 8 to return to the entertainment industry.

In 1997, he began working with the LACCD at Southwest Los Angeles College and started at Valley in 2001 overseeing the college's budget, dealing with

personnel matters and campus construction, to name a few of his responsibilities.

"I'm going to miss the people that I work with," Jacobsmeyer said. "The job is difficult. This is not a popularity contest in this position; you make decisions on what needs to be done opposed to what everyone is going to like. That's a difficult thing to do on a regular basis. But, if I didn't have the people who supported me in this division, I think it would have been much more difficult."

Although there are no official plans, Jacobsmeyer is looking forward to working for an entertainment company again—something he did for more than

10 years from 1974 to 1984 at the Walt Disney Company and Warner Bros. from 1994 to 1997.

"[My retirement] is just a change in venue," he said. "Putting on a show is a fun thing to do ... Disney is like family magic, whereas Warner Bros. is movie magic."

Raul Gonzalez, now Valley's associate vice president of Administrative Services, originally worked with Jacobsmeyer at Southwest where Jacobsmeyer served as vice president of Administrative Services.

"During that time, I came to know him as an individual truly concerned with the mission of the college and the people within

it," said Gonzalez. "When he left there to assume the vice presidency ... at Valley I made sure that I would follow him and was fortunate enough to do that."

Gonzalez pointed out Jacobsmeyer's work ethic as one of his attributes that will be missed.

"He is a sharing and caring person, often working in his office long after everyone else has gone home to make sure that whatever is needed is done," Gonzalez said. "He has been a mentor and a very good friend of mine whom I will personally miss seeing on a daily basis."

[See **JACOBSMEYER**, Page 3]



**FINAL MOMENTS** - Tom Jacobsmeyer, the vice president of Administrative Services leading Thursday's emergency classroom training, will be retiring next year.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION: FINALS SCHEDULE

DAY CLASSES						
Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY DEC 10			TUESDAY DEC 11		
Time of Exam	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm
Normal Class Schedule	6:30 - 7:55 MW	9:40 - 10:50 MTWTh	1:00 - 2:10 MTWTh	6:30 - 7:55 TTh	9:40 - 11:05 TTh	1:00 - 2:25 TTh
	6:45 - 7:55 MTWTh	9:40 - 11:05 MW	1:00 - 2:25 MW		9:40 - 10:55 TThF	1:00 - 2:15 TThF
		9:40 - 10:55 MWF	1:00 - 2:15 MWTh			
Day and Date Of Final Exam	WEDNESDAY DEC 12			THURSDAY DEC 13		
Time of Exam	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30 - 12:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30 - 12:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm
Normal Class Schedule	8:15 - 9:25 MTWTh	11:20 - 12:30 MTWTh	2:20 - 3:30 MTWTh	8:00 - 9:25 TTh	11:20 - 12:45 TTh	1:45 - 3:10 TTh
	8:00 - 9:25 MW	11:20 - 12:45 MW	2:40 - 4:05 MW	8:00 - 9:15 TThF	11:20 - 12:35 TThF	1:45 - 3:00 TThF
	8:00 - 9:15 MWF	11:20 - 12:35 MWF				

## Final Examination Schedule

Monday, Dec. 10, to Sunday Dec. 16

- Except for classes of less-than-semester length, the LAST DAY OF REGULAR INSTRUCTION IS SUNDAY, DEC 9.
- Classes meeting less-than-semester length will have the final exams at the last meeting of the class.
- FINAL EXAMINATIONS MUST BE HELD ON THE DAY AND TIME SCHEDULED AND IN REGULARLY ASSIGNED CLASSROOMS.
- FRIDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on Dec 14.
- SATURDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on Dec 15.

#### To use the schedule below:

- Locate the day and hour of your class on the grid.
- Days of the week are abbreviated **M T W Th F** for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

### EVENING CLASSES

CLASSES MEETING AT 3 PM OR BEFORE 5 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT 5 PM OR BEFORE 6 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT OR AFTER 6 PM		
Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time
M	M Dec 10	4 - 6pm	M	M Dec 10	4 - 6pm	M	M Dec 10	7 - 9pm
T	T Dec 11	4 - 6pm	T	T Dec 11	4 - 6pm	T	T Dec 11	7 - 9pm
W	W Dec 12	4 - 6pm	W	W Dec 12	4 - 6pm	W	W Dec 12	7 - 9pm
Th	Th Dec 13	4 - 6pm	Th	Th Dec 13	4 - 6pm	Th	Th Dec 13	7 - 9pm
MW	M Dec 10	4 - 6pm	MW	W Dec 12	4 - 6pm	MW	M Dec 10	7 - 9pm
TTh	T Dec 11	4 - 6pm	TTh	Th Dec 13	4 - 6pm	TTh	T Dec 11	7 - 9pm

In the event of a conflict, speak with your instructor to schedule an alternate time to take the final.



## FACEBOOK GIVES SANTA A BREAK

**A new Facebook application makes it easy for users to exchange real-life gifts with their online friends.**

**JHANELLE RIVERA**  
STAFF WRITER

The calendar is flipping its way to Christmas, and people are scrambling to find gifts for all their friends and family. A recent development may help ease their burden, as Santa may be delivering presents this year through Facebook.

The social networking site has created a new application called "Gift" which allows users to send real-life goodies to their friends, for Christmas or any other occasion. On the right side of the page, the website gives notifications with upcoming birthday reminders, as well as weddings, baby showers and

other events. Now, with a simple click, Facebook's 1 billion active users will be able to send presents to all their friends right from the site. Incorporating online shopping is a savvy business decision by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

Users who tend to be working behind a desk from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. might not have a chance to go shopping at a local retail store or may be too tired when they get home. Facebook has now offered a solution. And, if users forget their friends' likes or dislikes, they can always check their buddies' profiles to find their interests.

A study by Retrevo.com showed that 83 percent of young people sign into their Facebook account 10 times per day, whether to see if someone has liked a picture or to check if they have been invited to the latest party. Now, Facebook has found a way to make money

through its users' loyalty.

"The hard part for Facebook was aggregating a billion users. Now it's more about how to monetize those users without scaring them away," said Colin Sebastian, an analyst with Robert W. Baird in the New York Times.

"Gifts should also contribute more to Facebook's treasure trove of user data," said Sebastian, "which has the benefit of a virtuous cycle, driving more personalization of the site, leading to better and more targeted ads, which improves overall monetization."

For most websites that allow people to connect with their friends for free—like Myspace, Twitter, Tumblr, or Instagram—business owners gain revenue mostly by selling advertising. Zuckerberg will not only be able to rely on ads to generate revenue for his social network but will also profit through the

direct sale of gifts to users. The application has a diverse selection of presents, from Starbucks gift cards and iTunes cards to Angry Birds stuffed animals, with prices starting as low as \$10. Also, other businesses are getting on board.

A bakery in New York City, Magnolia Bakery, has linked with Facebook to sell cupcakes via the new "Gift" application. Users with a sweet tooth can share a tasty treat from the famous bakery that gained its fame from the movie "Sex In The City." The application offers a fantastic way for businesses to form a community and spread awareness of its company.

Facebook's new venture offers convenience to its users and will likely turn a tidy profit for the company. This holiday, Santa can relax while Facebook users tell each other who has been naughty or nice.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff or students.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear my fellow students,

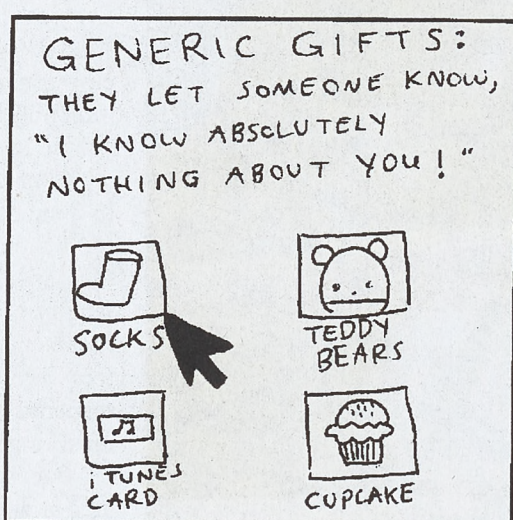
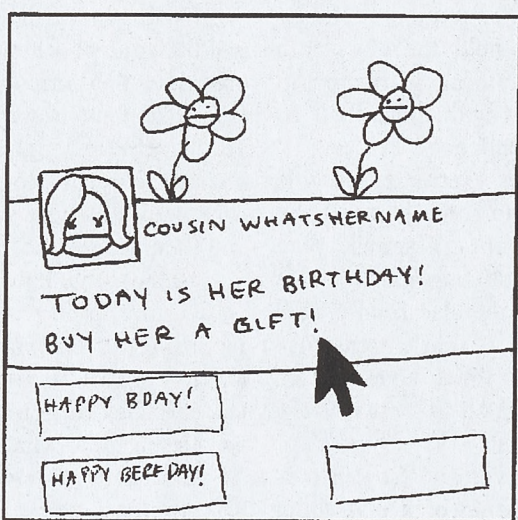
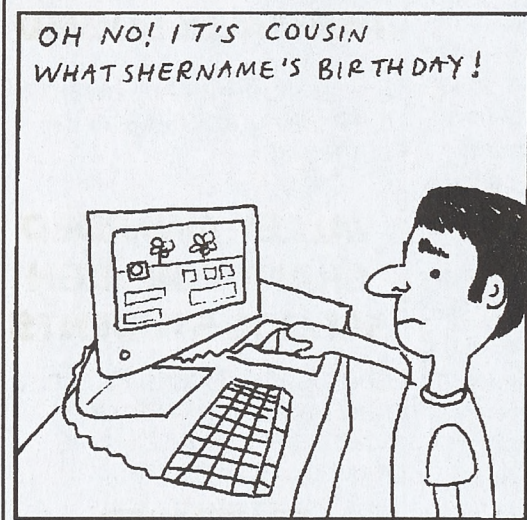
I want to address the importance of academic integrity. Most students are unaware of the seriousness of academic dishonesty and the consequences that follow. Just one violation can result in suspension and even expulsion depending on the particular situation. On top of that, the violation shall be recorded on your permanent academic record. Suspensions are permanent and cannot be expunged. This is only the start of a slippery slope. Colleges and universities frown upon this and almost always automatically disqualify an applicant because it makes them question the integrity of all your other grades as well as your characteristics and morals as a student. We are now adults in college and need to realize the consequences for our actions. Is one in-the-moment decision worth [the loss of] all your aca-

ademic dreams and achievements? The Student Code of Conduct is published in all Valley College schedules, catalogs and online.

Vahe Matevosyan  
Associated Student Union president

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Letters to the editor can be sent to [editorinchief@lavalleystar.com](mailto:editorinchief@lavalleystar.com) or submitted online at [www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com). Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.



**FACEBOOK GIVES ITS USERS A "GIFT" FOR THE HOLIDAYS** - A new Facebook application will give users a new, more convenient way to do their holiday shopping. By incorporating reminders for birthdays and other special occasions and having a wide selection of gifts available, the website seeks to make it easy for users to purchase gifts for all their online friends.

JENNA BUMGARDNER | VALLEY STAR

## SOCIALIST CLUB EXPANDS STUDENTS' VIEW

**Valley College now has a socialist club, introducing many students to a new way of thinking.**

**DEZIREE MILLER**  
STAFF WRITER

Sixty years ago, at the height of the Red Scare, a socialist club on a college campus would be unimaginable. While the term "socialist" may not carry the same level of disdain that it had in the 1950s, it is still thrown around as a bad word.

According to its website, "The Socialist Party strives to establish a radical democracy that places people's lives under their own control—a non-racist, classless, feminist, socialist society in which people cooperate at work, at home and in the community."

These ideas don't sound so horrible or threatening. However, the controversial Affordable Care Act—better known as Obamacare—was attacked by many politicians, such as Rep.

Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, and Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, for being socialist, as if that were something evil.

Powerful people, like these congressmen or other wealthy Americans, are threatened by the idea of socialism because it promotes taking control of production, schools, health care and other programs out of the hands of the elite few who have thrived under America's capitalist system and giving that control to the government and the citizens of this country.

Throughout history, things or even people that are different from what is considered "acceptable" by society have been persecuted. Women, people of color, religions and political views have all been targets of oppression.

While the socialist club at Valley College may promote a political ideology different from capitalism, it only seems appropriate that alternate ideologies would exist in a nation that is such a melting pot of diverse people and ideas.

Members of the club are not

disillusioned extremists, and they emphasize that anyone is welcome to come to their meetings, regardless of their political views.

"We're looking to promote a conscious to an alternative to capitalism," explained Valley socialist club leader Albert Sarian, "and to raise awareness to political, social and economic issues."

College students are constantly learning and should be looking to expand their minds and views. While students don't necessarily have to join the socialist club, the presence of it can only serve to broaden their outlook.

"Having taught college for over twenty years, I always encourage students to get involved with the world around them—including politics," explained Dr. Michael Powelson, one of the instructors who oversees the socialist club. "While I'd like to see students join the socialist movement, more important is that students should get involved in the political issues of

the day from either the left or the right perspective."

As a school in a nation that allegedly promotes tolerance and freedom of speech, students can change the connotation of "socialist." Society should not be afraid of or threatened by differences. Valley's socialists aim to share this view through events on campus.

"We're planning a book exchange, which goes back to socialistic principles," said socialist club treasurer Erik Manukyan. "I have a book you need, you have one that I need and no money is exchanged."

This is certainly an idea struggling students on a budget would really benefit from. The club also has plans to work with the sociology experiment club and start coalitions with the DREAM Team, Black Student Union, and Gay Straight Alliance.

While Valley will likely not be overtaken by the socialist club, the club may be able to overcome any narrow views of students and open them up to different ideas.

### CUTTING TO THE BONE

## A GAME WITH NO WINNERS

**Students will be the big losers as the government battles over the impending fiscal cliff.**

**KEVIN JERSEY**

There is a very dangerous game of chicken being played at the highest levels of government.

President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress are locked in a stare-down over the economy, with both sides gambling that the other will be the first to back down. But, if something isn't done to resolve this conflict, it is the American people that will pay the price in this high-stakes bet.

The game at hand deals with the so-called "fiscal cliff," a term that refers to simultaneous tax increases and spending cuts that will go into effect when the calendar hits 2013. The tax increase comes as the lower rates established in 2001 under President George W. Bush finally expire. This is coupled with spending cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act, which was enacted to resolve last year's debt ceiling debate.

Lost among the politics and rhetoric surrounding the fiscal cliff is the effect that it will have on American people and, specifically, students. The expiration of the Bush tax cuts will mean an additional tax burden of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per household, according to estimates by Forbes. This would be a huge hit for many families and for students already struggling to finance their education.

Additionally, the concurrent spending cuts will slash funds from numerous government pro-

grams, including education.

A report from the White House's Office of Management and Budget lists several federal financial aid and work-study programs that will each face 8.2 percent cuts to their budgets. Federal programs that fund university research, including the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Health and the National Endowment for the Humanities would also face similar cuts.

Here in California, the Legislative Analyst's Office reports that these cuts will total about \$11 billion, which is more than the amount of revenue that will be generated by the recent passage of Proposition 30. Therefore, any gains for education funding made by the state will be more than offset by cuts at the federal level.

In an effort to avoid the fiscal cliff, the president is offering a plan that will eliminate the tax increase for families earning less than \$250,000 per year and would limit cuts to many federal programs.

Republicans in Congress, however, have so far refused to accept any deal that would increase taxes for anyone, allegedly laughing at the president's plan. They offered a counter-proposal this week that would preserve the current low tax rates but raise revenue through closing unspecified tax loopholes and by cutting Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security benefits.

The White House immediately rejected this proposal, saying that the cuts to benefits programs would force lower-income Americans to pay for the lower tax rates for the wealthy.

Both sides are betting that as the country creeps closer to the edge of the fiscal cliff, their opponent will be forced to make concessions. But, it is just as likely that this gamble will result in no deal being reached before the Jan. 1 deadline.

For a country that has spent the last four years climbing out of an economic ditch, being driven off the edge of a cliff would be devastating. The president has offered a plan that will avert this crisis and is standing firm against a Congress that has refused to compromise. Submission by either side will have a huge political cost. But, the price paid by the American people if an agreement isn't reached will be far greater.

Email Kevin Jersey at [opinion@lavalleystar.com](mailto:opinion@lavalleystar.com). Send general comments to [valleystar@lavalleystar.com](mailto:valleystar@lavalleystar.com).

## VALLEY VIEW | HOW WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?



"I give the homeless my spare change, if they ask."

-GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ,  
COMPUTER APPLICATIONS



"Photographers will be going to different areas to take holiday family portraits of needy people. The organization is called Help Portrait."

-TAMI BAHAT,  
UNDECIDED



"I'll probably be playing a show. I don't have anything worth giving."

-STAS FELTON,  
JOURNALISM



"I'll be buying a gift worth \$30 for a child of a full-time parent in the EOPS program."

-VIDYA MAHENDRAN,  
FILM



"I plan on buying gifts for family and friends and donating to the needy."

-ARAM TOKADJIAN,  
UNDECIDED

COMPILED BY FATIMA JIMENEZ | VALLEY STAR



## GRANADA HILLS HOLIDAY PARADE



**SAINT NICK** - Santa Claus riding a red fire engine was among the more-than-100 entries Dec. 2 in the 29th Annual Granada Hills Holiday Parade. The celebration along Chatsworth Street featured local high school marching bands, boy and girl scout troupes, and representatives from area businesses among other participants.

LORAINA AMEDEN | VALLEY STAR

## BURBANK TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATES HOLIDAYS

### The Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony kicks off a month of holiday festivities in Burbank.

DEZIREE MILLER  
STAFF WRITER

Santa and Mrs. Claus and Minnie and Mickey Mouse were some of the special guests revelers were treated to at Burbank's tree-lighting ceremony Saturday outside City Hall.

The Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony, an annual event to kick off the holidays, welcomed residents of Burbank and neighboring cities to celebrate the spirit of the winter season.

Olive Avenue and parts of San Fernando Road in Downtown Burbank were closed to traffic for the festivities. Radio host Mike Sakellarides from 94.7, The WAVE, emceed the event, which started with a performance from John Burroughs High School students who sang "Deck the Halls" acapella before Burbank's mayor took the stage to

welcome the audience.

"Thank you for helping us celebrate the lighting of the tree," said Mayor Dave Golonski. "People worked really hard to put this show on for you."

Sirens rang, and the recognizable voices of Disney characters singing Christmas music filled the air, as Mickey and Minnie Mouse approached the crowd riding in a vintage Chevrolet Bel Air.

Next was a "Rockette"-style performance by the students of the Red Chair School of Performing Arts, wearing short red and white velvet dresses, heels and white pill-box hats to dance to "Jingle Bell Rock."

Sirens interrupted again, announcing Santa and Mrs. Claus' arrival on a fire truck decked out in Christmas lights and décor.

Santa and Mrs. Claus walked up to the stage where they were presented with gifts. The couple then retreated a block away to Burbank's AMC theater—which has been decorated for the holidays—to pose for pictures the rest of the evening.

"Now, we're going to need a big countdown," said Golonski. "I need you guys to be really loud. Ready?"

The ceremony encountered a minor hiccup when, after counting down from 10, the tree still did not light. A few seconds later, the tree was sparkling with light, and Sakellarides joked it was due to the new energy-efficient lights the city is using.

"My wife and I would not have come to things like this before our kids, but we knew they'd love it," said Burbank resident Mark Schapirro. "They get us into the Christmas spirit."

At the ceremony's closing, the crowd was guided to San Fernando Road by the shops of Downtown Burbank where vendors and booths filled the streets with activities for kids, giveaways and live ice sculpting.

Downtown Burbank will continue to celebrate the season with events throughout December, many of which are free. For a full schedule, visit [www.downtown-burbank.org](http://www.downtown-burbank.org).

### JACOBSMEYER

Continued from page 1

Jacobsmeier is the fourth member of the Monarchs family—and second vice president—to leave this year. Athletic Director

Diedra Stark retired during the spring semester, Vice President of Academic Affairs Sandy Mayo moved on to another school after the spring semester and Fine and Performing Arts Dean Dennis Reed retired in October.

"His contribution will be

missed," said Valley President Sue Carleo. "As we move on to our next phase, we are striving to select an administrative team that brings expertise and talent to assure the college can continue to strengthen our ability to ensure student success."

## VALLEY SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER

### Valley College brings joy to families in need this Christmas season.

ASHLEY GOOSSEN  
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students looking to get involved this holiday season do not need to look further than campus to contribute—Operation Santa is in full effect.

"We want to show that we can help the community by giving to those who can't necessarily afford Christmas gifts this year," said Raul Castillo, the executive director of the LAVC Foundation. "We really enjoy it—it's our way of being a part of the holiday spirit."

Since 1998, the North Hollywood Junior Chamber of Commerce has organized and run Operation Santa, a project that collects children's letters to Santa Claus and delivers toys on Christmas Eve to underprivileged children who reside in the valley.

"The NHJCC first contacts teachers of local elementary schools who then select students to reach out to," said Josh Miller, the president of the Academic Senate at Valley. "From there, people wishing to donate adopt a family on the list and provide gifts for them to open on Christmas Eve."

Valley first became involved with Operation Santa just last year, which proved to be a huge success.

"Last year, we were able to reach out to about 80 families," said Miller. "I think Valley's involvement really helped open up an entirely new avenue that brought in so many more people to help out and donate. Our goal this year is to give Christmas presents

to at least 60 families who otherwise wouldn't get them."

To help Operation Santa families, those attending Valley's annual Winter Holiday Party for faculty and staff members are being asked to bring either a \$3 donation or an unwrapped present.

The party will take place Tuesday, Dec. 13 in Monarch Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Students who wish to get

involved can participate in a variety of ways, such as donating toys, giving money for gifts or even volunteering to dress up as Santa Claus when the presents are given out to the children on Christmas Eve.

For more information on how to get involved or donate to Operation Santa, contact Josh Miller at [millerje@lvc.edu](mailto:millerje@lvc.edu).

## THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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## VALLEY LIFE ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

### VALLEY COLLEGE STUDENT BRINGS HOME FIRST-PLACE COMPOSITION AWARD

BEN LETINSKY WINS FIRST PRIZE FOR HIS PIANO-CLARINET DUET, "EPISODES."

### VALLEY'S THEATER ARTS DEPARTMENT PREPARES TO PLEASE STUDENTS WITH SPRING PRODUCTIONS

VALLEY'S THEATER ARTS DEPARTMENT IS CASTING THE TWO PRODUCTIONS THAT WILL BE PRESENTED DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER.



READ THE STORIES AT WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM/SECTIONS/ONLINE-EXCLUSIVES OR SCAN THE QR CODE WITH A SMARTPHONE.





PRO COACHING- Water polo coach McMillan is giving instructions to the players during the game with Santa Monica College, where Valley won 20-9.

## MEN'S WATER POLO COACH HONORED WITH STATE CONFERENCE AWARD

Valley College's men's water polo coach Jim McMillan was named coach of the year.

JULIO FLORES  
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's water polo coach Jim McMillan was named Western State Conference Coach of the Year, and two Monarch players were named Junior College All-Americans this past season.

McMillan has been at Valley for seven years. His résumé includes four years at Loyola Marymount and 12 years at Pepperdine University where he won a national championship against USC in 1997.

"We were a way better team than last year," Jack Acampora said. "[McMillan is] the best coach I've ever had. I looked up his résumé, and that's the reason I came to Valley."

A handful of Monarchs water polo athletes were also given recognition for their outstanding talent in the pool.

According to McMillan, he was proud to hear a number of the ath-

**"I love McMillan's style of coaching, his expertise and knowledge of the game, coaching at Pepperdine and his experience as a play. You learn a lot."**

-Robert Cordobes, former player of McMillan

letes on his team were named All-Conference, along with two who were also named All-Americans.

Acampora, Gor Asryan, Glicerio Vergara and Haik Chatalyan were named first team All-Conference, along with Antonio Vilches and Zakary Zukosk who were named second team All-Conference.

Asryan and Vergara were also the two Monarchs water polo athletes who were given the recognition of Junior College All-

Americans.

The team ended the season with an overall record of 14-11. Valley did not suffer a loss to a team ranked below it this season. The Monarchs were fifth in the state and undefeated in the Western State Conference, something that had not been accomplished before. Their season ended in the conference final losing to Cuesta 9-7.

According to McMillan, a highlight of the season was having defeated Ventura College two years in a row since Ventura has been the water polo powerhouse in their conference. The Monarchs also participated in the Southern California regional finals where they beat Ventura 11-10 in the first round but lost to Golden West College 15-10 in the second round.

"I've seen the players mature a lot. We have to teach life lessons through athletics," said McMillan. "All 20 players are doing well in classes, which is a requirement of mine."

McMillan has his players practice one and half hours before classes and two and a half hours after classes five to six days a week.

"I love McMillan's style of coaching, his expertise and knowledge of the game, coaching at Pepperdine and his experience as a player. You learn a lot," said Robert Cordobes, a former player of McMillan's.

TO SEE THE LIST OF ALL WATER POLO PLAYERS THAT WERE GIVEN RECOGNITION, VISIT [WWW.LAVC.EDU/ATHLETICS.HTM](http://WWW.LAVC.EDU/ATHLETICS.HTM)

### THINK IT THROUGH

## LOS ANGELES SPOILS ITS PRO SPORTS FANS

ROMEO GONZALEZ

The Los Angeles Galaxy just won its second consecutive MLS cup, and earlier this year, the Kings won the Stanley Cup. Now what are L.A. natives to expect from this basketball season?

Most cities maybe have one successful team they can rally behind—if they're lucky—but Angelinos have been spoiled with six teams that have won a combined total of 28 championships, adding to our oversized egos.

In the 2011-2012 NBA basketball season, the Lakers made the post season but did not bring home another championship, losing to the Oklahoma City Thunder in the Western Conference semi-finals. But, L.A. had two shots. That same season, the Clippers also made the playoffs. Unfortunately, they were also sent home after losing to the Spurs.

The hopes of having another parade down Figueroa Boulevard looked as if it was not going to happen this year. But wait, let's not forget L.A. does have a hockey team that had a decent season and an even better post season winning the Stanley Cup for the first time.

That game, Kings hockey fans had a chance to flaunt their success after having to deal with the neighboring Anaheim Ducks all these years.

We are spoiled rotten. Professional teams in L.A. are in the business of winning to keep our egos and the seats in the sta-

dium full. After all, we're not in Milwaukee where the only thing to do is go see the Bucks play.

As the Dodgers experienced first hand, if you don't win in this town, you don't have fans. When the Dodgers were having one of their worst seasons in 2010-2011, there were hardly any baseball mitts being put in the outfield pavilions to catch a fly ball by Matt Kemp.

Now, the Lakers—a franchise where winning games and championships has become a tradition—have had a bad start to the 2012-2013 basketball season being under .500 in the first 17 games of the season. Make no mistake, when teams in L.A. aren't wining, there is a storm of solutions that rise.

This NBA season, the Lakers added two new all-stars to their team: Dwight Howard and Steve Nash. They also replaced head coach Mike Brown with Mike D'Antonie after Brown began the season 1-4—all this to bring the team back to its feet.

It's a business, and our teams are tampered with to bring celebrations back to this city. The Lakers aren't the only team to do it: the Galaxy brought David Beckham, the Angels signed Albert Pujols and the Clippers dropped a dime to get Chris Paul.

This surely makes L.A. the golden city of sports. After all, when you buy the best, you get the best.

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Send general comments to [valleystar@lavalleystar.com](mailto:valleystar@lavalleystar.com)

### MONARCH SCHEDULES

**Men's Basketball:**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 19**  
vs. Ventura  
@ Valley 5 p.m.  
**Saturday, Dec. 22**  
vs. L.A. Harbor  
@ Valley 5 p.m.  
**Friday, Dec. 28**  
vs. Irvine Valley  
@ Valley 5 p.m.  
**Friday, Jan. 4**  
vs. L.A. Trade Tech  
@ Valley 5 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Jan. 9**  
vs. College of the Canyons  
@ Valley 5p.m.

**Women's Basketball:**  
**Dec. 7-9**  
LAVC Russell Classic Tournament  
@ Valley 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 14-16**  
Golden State Classic Tournament  
@ San Francisco  
**Dec. 28-30**  
Ventura College "We Play Hard" Tournament  
@ Ventura

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